

The time is long overdue for the Federal Government to lead in the development and promotion of energy-efficient technologies and alternative and renewable fuels. The plans are ready to go. The needs and the potential impacts on our nation's energy use are great. All that is left is to do is to provide the funding needed to purchase and install the proper equipment. This bill does just that.

I thank Mr. MICA, Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ms. NORTON, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for joining me on this critical, bipartisan initiative. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 798.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. ZAIDAN'S PRIESTHOOD AND THE LIFE OF JOHN MILAD NISSER

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, as a Lebanese American, I rise here today to recognize the celebration of St. Maron Feast Day on February 11, 2007, by The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Lebanon in Los Angeles. They are planning a grand banquet at the Biltmore Hotel for this occasion and are honoring the 20th anniversary of the priesthood of Father Abdallah Zaidan, their pastor, and John Milad Nisser, who is receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Born in Kseibe, Lebanon, Rev. Zaidan joined the Congregation of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries and earned his Master's degrees at St. John's University in New York. He entered Novitiate in September 1980 and was ordained in July 1986. Father Abdallah E. Zaidan received his Master's in Theology in 1986, his Master's in Philosophy in 1987, and his Master's in Education in 1990.

Beginning his service in Lebanon as a Chaplain and teacher, Rev. Zaidan immigrated to the United States in 1988. He became Assistant Rector at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, and in January 1990, became Pastor of St. George Maronite Catholic Church in San Antonio. Beginning in August 1992, Father Zaidan became Regional Superior of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries in the United States and is currently the Rector of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral in Los Angeles, and Protospyter for the Southwest and Northwest Regions of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, as well as several other important positions within the church and the community. I join the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Lebanon to congratulate Rev. Zaidan for his 20 years of wonderful service.

Furthermore, I would also like to honor John Milad Nisser who will be presented the Lifetime Achievement Award. John Nisser was born in Batroun, a small town north of Beirut, in Lebanon. His father died when he was just 15, so John took it upon himself to provide for his family by taking odd jobs and tutoring the children of wealthy families. By doing so, he was able to provide for the other five children

while becoming fluent in French, Arabic, English, and later Spanish. In 1947, John left Lebanon and journeyed first to South America and eventually to California. In California, he turned to the place of his faith for comfort and joined the church of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon. Here he married Rosalie Barhouse in 1949. Dreaming of owning his own business, he purchased and operated a small market. Still, he wanted to do more. After finally securing the necessary loans, he and Rosalie built and managed several apartment buildings, and later constructed three senior citizen homes. Through all this, he has never stopped giving thanks to God and his country for what life has given him. Due to his generosity, the church of St. Stephens in Batroun has been given new windows, an organ, pews, and a hearse. He has sponsored the building of the St. Vincent DePaul nursing home and set up an Endowment Fund through Our Lady of Mount Lebanon to provide for the poor in Lebanon. Here in the United States, many Lebanese transfer students were offered free rent in his apartments during the duration of their education. Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon has consistently been a recipient of his generosity.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these two men who have contributed greatly to their communities and touched the lives of many.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate a crown jewel of Northwestern Ohio on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

The University of Findlay was founded as Findlay College in 1882 by the Churches of God, General Conference. Back then, the City of Findlay's total population was less than 5,000; today, total enrollment at the University is approaching that milestone. The 1989 renaming of the College better reflects the size of the student population and the wide variety of academic programs offered: degrees are now awarded in more than 60 undergraduate areas.

Throughout its history, the University has earned accolades for its hands' on learning environment and its excellent faculty' student ratios. Named a 2007 Best Midwestern College by the Princeton Review, Findlay excels in distance learning programs through cutting-edge technologies; all of the required coursework to earn a Master of Business Administration degree may be taken online.

I am especially proud of the University's innovative work on terrorism response initiatives. Following the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, Ken Zirkle, who was then serving as President of the University, came to Congress to discuss how communities could better prepare to respond to terrorist attacks. Since then, Congress has helped the University form the Center for Terrorism Preparedness, a nationally recognized program that is helping first responders deal with emerging threats to our homeland.

Madam Speaker, ceremonies marking the 125th anniversary of the University's founding will take place on campus later this week. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Findlay on this historic occasion. The people of Hancock County and throughout Ohio can take great pride in the work done at the University to prepare students to meet the challenges of the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERYONE DESERVES UNCONDITIONAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION (EDUCATE) ACT MANDATORY FULL FUNDING FOR IDEA BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE BILL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everyone Deserves Unconditional Access to Education Act, a bill to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. I thank my colleagues, Representatives FERGUSON and HOOLEY, for their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, it was more than 30 years ago that Congress passed IDEA, requiring states to provide an appropriate education to students with special needs. At that time, Congress promised states that it would cover 40 percent of the costs to meet this goal. However, Congress has yet to fulfill its promise to states. In fact, Congress has never met even half of its commitment. This is unacceptable.

The bill I introduce today with Representatives FERGUSON and HOOLEY will fulfill our promise to states with guaranteed funding increases for IDEA every year. It will relieve the burden on states and ensure a quality education for all special needs students. And it will restore the integrity of this Congress by ensuring that a promise made is a promise kept.

Madam Speaker, states and students have waited more than 30 years for Congress to fulfill its pledge. I encourage members from both sides of the aisle to join with Representatives FERGUSON, HOOLEY, and me to support our schools and provide our students with the resources they need.

HONORING DOUGLAS D. HAWTHORNE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been my distinct honor over the years to take note of the extraordinary valuable work done by Douglas D. Hawthorne for the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the State of Texas and this Nation.

Mr. Hawthorne, president and chief executive of Texas Health Resources was recognized this fall, when he received the Greer Garson-E.E. Fogelson Humanitarian Award at the Greer Garson Gala. Mr. Hawthorne serves

as a national role model through his leadership and unwavering commitment to helping people and furthering the awareness of Parkinson's disease in our community.

For more than a decade, Mr. Hawthorne has conducted a "quite revolution" in the treatment of Alzheimer. He helped establish the APDA's Parkinson's Information and Referral Center at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas in 1990 and developed a relationship with the local chapter.

Hawthorne served as president and chief executive officer of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources from 1983 until the formation of Texas Health Resources in 1997. He is past chairman of Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council and the Texas Hospital Association (THA). In 1996, he received the Boone Powell Sr. Award of Excellence for distinguished hospital administration by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council. In 1994, he received THA's highest award, The Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Hospital Administration. He has chaired several American Hospital Association (AHA) committees and is a former at-large member of AHA's Board of Trustees. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), he received the Gold Medal Award in 2002, ACHE Regent Senior Level Health Care Executive Award in 1991 and served as Regent for Texas Greater Dallas/Fort Worth area of the ACHE. In 2003, Modern Healthcare magazine named Hawthorne number 30 on its list of the "100 Most Powerful People in Health Care."

Madam Speaker, as one who has worked closely with Alzheimer patients, I know that his efforts for battling this disease are unequaled and he is certainly one of our community's great leaders. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor Douglas Hawthorne, on the occasion of his receiving the Greer Garson-E.E. Fogelson Humanitarian Award.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 20, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 20, the Joint Funding Resolution that will complete action on the remainder of the fiscal year 2007 appropriations bills. This measure is not perfect, but it addresses the most urgent funding needs of federal programs while remaining within the tight budget constraints imposed by the previous Congress.

We are fixing this funding problem today because the former Republican leadership in the House and Senate failed to complete nine of the 11 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2007 before the 109th Congress adjourned in December 2006. The funding resolution we are voting on today will finally give federal programs a blueprint for their spending until September 30, 2007; however, it is not an ideal solution. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have rightly talked about challenges faced by certain programs that will see no in-

crease over fiscal year 2006 levels. I cannot help but wonder where their concerns were when they controlled the fate of those programs last year?

The Democratic leadership faced many hard decisions in funding the remainder of the appropriations bills, and my colleagues rose to the occasion. This endeavor required a careful analysis of many important programs, as well as a great deal of compromise. To start, this measure does not contain any earmarks or a cost-of-living pay increase for Members of Congress. I wholeheartedly agree that any congressional pay increase should not be passed until the minimum wage increase passes Congress. We all must move forward together. That is also why I am pleased that this measure will increase Section 8 funding, which will help renew vouchers for individuals and families that cannot afford exorbitant housing prices on their own.

I am proud that my colleagues were able to increase funds for other high priority needs as well, such as veterans and military health care. We must make sure that service members wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan have the services they require, as well as anticipate the increasing number of returning veterans who have earned their promised benefits. This measure will also fund an increase in programs for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as local law enforcement programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which are critical to keeping our communities safe. At both the state and federal level, our work on intelligence and security must not be threatened by a lack of resources.

The funding resolution will also increase the maximum amount of a Pell grant so that more than 5.3 million students can help pay rising college expenses. I am especially pleased that this increase, the first in 4 years, will strengthen a program first introduced by an esteemed Rhode Islander, Senator Claiborne Pell. This measure also helps the youngest and most vulnerable group of students in our country by increasing Head Start funding to prevent a drop in enrollments.

Finally, this resolution also highlights areas where we need to move our country forward like health care and energy security. We are providing increased funding for community health centers, as well as scientific research; both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation will be funded over last year's level. The Department of Energy will also receive additional resources for research and development activities for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

After completion of H.J. Res 20, I look forward to working toward timely passage of a Fiscal Year 2008 budget that provides the necessary funding for some of our nation's most critical programs. The Democratic leadership has reinstated the pay-as-you-go budget rule, so that new spending has to be offset by a decrease in spending elsewhere in the budget. This promise was made last year, when we told the voters that we would bring this Congress in a new direction and demand fiscal responsibility. The measure we pass today, as well as the work we will do in the coming months, will show Americans that this Congress can be responsive to the public, enhance support for federal programs vital to our working families, and be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and contributions of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the largest car-rental company in North America and an integral part of the local Saint Louis community.

Enterprise has annual revenues of more than 9 billion and is currently number 21 on the Forbes "500 Largest Private Companies in America" list.

Operating on the principle that good business derives from a well-trained and well-treated staff, the company has been cited by Business Week as one of the Best Places to Launch a Career. In 2005, Enterprise received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for efforts on behalf of its employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

Enterprise is as dedicated to the public, as they are to their own employees.

In 1982, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation was created, and has, over the past 25 years, given more than \$87 million to non-profit entities, has donated \$30 million to schools and scholarships to support minorities and economically-challenged students, and has contributed \$1 million each to both the Red Cross relief effort for the Gulf Coast, as well as the victims of 9-11.

With its charitable works, avid support of its employees, and economic success, Economic Rent-A-Car is a truly dynamic corporation.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this organization, who has made great contributions to the local Saint Louis community and the larger national community, and is a model for effective and charismatic business.

HONORING OPERATION HELMET

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and personal gratitude that I recognize the remarkable work of Mike and Marie Farley who, along with Rodney Van Pelt and other members of the Quakertown Moose Lodge No. 1622, took bold initiative to provide our soldiers with life-saving equipment.

Marie Farley of Nockamixon, Pennsylvania was shocked to learn that antiquated gear was being issued to U.S. soldiers—including to her 23-year-old son Michael, a Marine stationed in Anbar Province, Iraq. She learned that with an upgrade kit, her son's helmet could do more to protect him. If Michael was knocked down by an explosion, the shock-absorbing pad and new strap system could save his life. But Mrs. Farley and her husband Mike discovered that if they wanted their son and his unit to have this simple safety feature, they would have to raise the money themselves.